Proposed Namespace Manager Procedures

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What a NS Manager Should Do

- **Seven activities as a namespace manager**
  - **Organize cooperation forums**
  - **Create sub-namespaces as needed**
  - **Collect requests for "operational" status**
  - **Collect nominations for Enterprise NS**
  - **Collect requests for Deconfliction**
  - **Collect complaints**
  - **Operate the NS website**

- **Assumptions and motivations**
  - **Bottom-up, market-driven approach**
  - **Facilitate cooperation, not mandate compliance**

**Aerospace Operations NSM
intends to use these procedures**

Organize Cooperation Forums

- Purpose: a place for people across organizations to form consensus on XML definitions

- Collect and publish a list of people who want to cooperate
  - Name, organization, subject area of interest, etc.

- Charter cooperation forums as needed
  - Any two or more participants that want to cooperate
  - Self-nominating
  - Probably they find each other through the list
  - Subject-area redundancy discouraged, not forbidden
  - Use common sense to choose the forum chair
  - Post participant list, meeting times & places, etc.

Create Sub-Namespaces As Needed

- **Sub-namespaces for governance**
  - **These seem to correspond to cooperation forums**
  - **Place to store the agreed definitions from a forum**
  - **May delegate NSM responsibilities to the forum**

- **Sub-namespaces for disambiguation**
  - **These seem to correspond to the technical meaning of NS**
  - **Can't have duplicate XML components within a namespace**

Collect Requests for "Operational" Status

- Anyone can put XML components into the registry
  - But only the NSM can mark them "operational"
  - Will make this decision upon request

- Successful requests will include:
  - List of organizations that have agreed to the definitions
  - List of systems that accept conforming XML documents
  - List of systems that produce conforming XML documents
  - Are the producing systems considered an authoritative source of this information?

- Successful requests will often come from cooperation forums

- Successful requests typically won't include DTDs
  - We want to see XML Schema

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- **Widely-used XML components may belong in the Enterprise NS**

- **NS Manager proposes candidates to NSM Forum**

- **Will carry nominations forward upon request**

- **Successful requests will include:**
  - **List of components nominated for Enterprise NS**
  - **List of organizations that support nomination**
  - **List of other namespaces examined for conflicting components**
  - **List of other Namespace Managers that have coordinated on the request**
  - **List of possibly-redundant components discovered**

Collect Requests for Deconfliction

- **Conflict: Different XML components with the same meaning**
  - **Not as bad as different meanings for the same component**

- **Can resolve conflict by**
  - **Removing "operational" status from some components**
  - **Moving components into different namespaces**
  - **Will make these decisions upon request**

- **Successful requests will include:**
  - **Correlated list of XML components believed redundant**
  - **Suggested change to resolve the conflict**
  - **List of organizations that agree with request**

- **Need to document deconfliction actions in the Registry**

Collect Complaints

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- **Kinds of complaints accepted:**
  - **Inadequate documentation of XML components
    Not good enough for me to figure out what it means**
  - **Incorrect use of registered definitions
    You said you're using definition X... but you *aren't***

- **Successful complaints will include:**
  - **Statement of problem, suggested resolution**
  - **Organization that needs to make the change**
  - **Statement that you've already tried to work it out with them**
  - **List of organizations that agree with complaint**

- **NSM action on successful complaint may include:**
  - **Posting on web site**
  - **Removing "operational" status from components with inadequate documentation**
  - **Forwarding to cognizant milestone decision authority**

Operate the NS Website

- **Post information on the site**

- **Collect information through the site**

- **Don't use e-mail for this**

What's Missing?

- **HL-7 (like) procedures for some forums/namespaces**
  - **Useful when many peer systems communicate**
  - **Needed for test/certification of XML semantics**

- **Recording semantics in ontologies**
  - **A place for DARPA Agent Markup Language (DAML)**

- **Resolving technical NS vs. governance NS What about multiple definitions for the same identifier?**
  - **Governance NS must accommodate this**
  - **Technical NS intended precisely to avoid this**
  - **Registry "version number" seems overloaded here**